

- The Examiner indicated that, with respect to responding to existing rejections and objections, the response dated June 22, 2000 (paper no. 19) with appropriate cross-reference to arguments made in the response dated November 17, 1999 (paper no. 16), was acceptable.

For the Examiner's convenience, a copy of pending claims after entry of all amendments is attached to this communication. Applicants respectfully request continuation of examination on the merits. If there are any issues the Examiner wishes to discuss, she is encouraged to telephone Applicants' representative at the telephone number below.

In the unlikely event that the that transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 304142000322. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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